

# 2008 JULY-AUGUST STARMAP

Date and Time:	
Early July:	12:30 A.M.
Late July:	11:30 P.M.
Early August:	10:30 P.M.
Late August:	9:30 P.M.

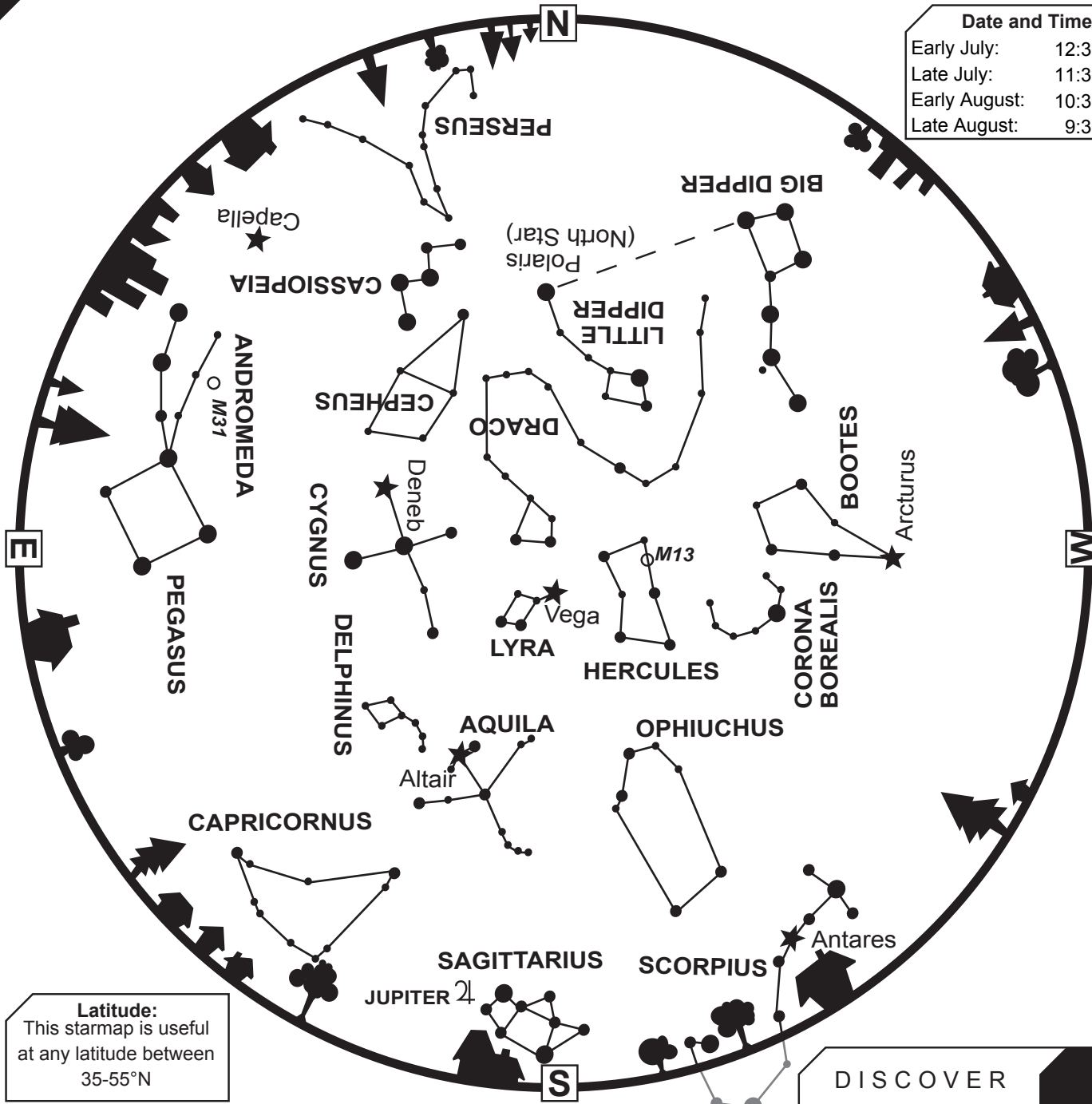
- How to Use This Map:**
1. Find North in the sky using the Big Dipper and the North Star.
  2. While facing North, hold the starmap straight in front of you with NORTH at the bottom.
  3. Look for the constellations in that area of the sky.
  4. When you want to look at other areas, always turn the map so that the direction you're facing is at the bottom of the map.

**Key:**

**CONSTITUTION NAMES**  
 Star Names  
 STAR GROUP NAMES  
*Deep Sky Object Designations*  
 Planet Names

★ 1st magnitude stars  
 ● 2nd magnitude stars  
 ● 3rd magnitude stars  
 ● 4th magnitude stars  
 ○ Deep sky objects:  
     M13 - Hercules Globular Cluster  
     M31 - Andromeda Galaxy

Planets:  
 ♃ - Jupiter



**Latitude:**  
 This starmap is useful  
 at any latitude between  
 35-55°N

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## Summer Stargazing in Seattle

Looking for stars in Seattle? The further you can get from streetlights, the better. Darkness is what you need for the best stargazing.\* If you'd like to join other astronomy enthusiasts, try one of these local events!

**The Seattle Astronomical Society** hosts stargazing parties in two locations in Seattle.

**Green Lake Star Party:** Green Lake star parties are on the north shore at a grassy area west of the Bathhouse Theater, near the fishing piers on the lake.

July 12th and August 9th at 7pm

**Paramount Park Star Party:** The park address is NE 155th and 8th NE in Shoreline.

July 12th and August 9th at 7pm

**UW Observatory Open House:** look through the UW's 110-year-old refracting telescope, and listen to a short talk. The observatory is located in the northwest corner of the campus.

July 2nd and 16th at 9pm

August 6th and 20th at 9pm

\*Please use caution walking in the city in the dark. Also, be aware that many of Seattle's Parks close at sunset.

The Willard Smith Planetarium Astronomy Hotline:  
**206-443-2920**



The Willard Smith Planetarium is now booking private shows for your special occasion. For more information, please call our group sales and special events line at: **206-443-3611**.

## Further Afield

Getting out of the city allows for even better views of the sky. Here are some of my favorite stargazing locations within a few hours of Seattle. Most of these are fee-based public areas.

**Campground on Lake Kachess** in the Cascades just off I-90. The boat ramp has a good view towards the Northeast (perfect for Perseid viewing). Be sure to talk to the ranger beforehand though, the boat ramp is in the "Day Use Only" section of the park. *Info:* [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)

**Lake Ozette in Olympic National Park**, near the tip of the Olympic Peninsula, has a good reputation for dark skies. Stay near the water (out of the trees) for the best sights. *Info:* [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

The Boeing Employee's Astronomical Society recommends **Bowman Bay Campground in Deception Pass State Park** on Whidbey Island. *Info:* [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

My favorite stargazing location, **Staircase Campground in Olympic National Park**, is closed due to road-washout and should reopen sometime this summer. If you get there, sit on the bridge for the best views. *Info:* [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



## The Perseid Meteor Shower

If you spend any time stargazing this summer, be sure not to miss the Perseid meteor shower.

Dates: July 17-August 24th

Time: After midnight

Best Viewing: August 12 12am-3am

To see the Perseids, turn to face the constellation Perseus, which will be rising in the Northeast a bit before midnight.



Approximate stargazing locations, thanks to Google Maps



## Astronomy Internet Resources

Sky Information:

<http://stardate.org/nightsky/weekly.php>

UW Observatory:

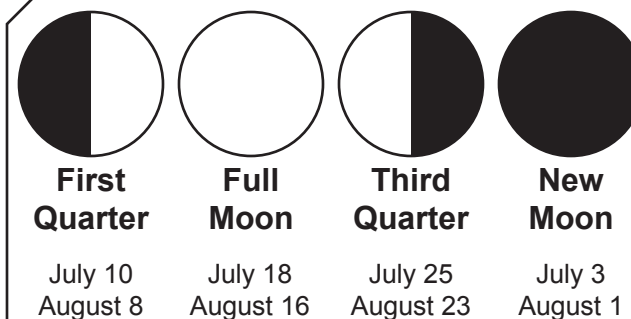
<http://www.astro.washington.edu/observatory/>

Seattle-Area Astronomy Events:

<http://www.seattleastro.org>

Advanced Astronomy Updates:

<http://www.PacificScienceCenter.org/AstroInfo>



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